

belonging to each group among the conference participants; and a "member" column indicating conference participants belonging to the groups, as shown in Fig. 7.

The seating-order determiner 71 performs initialization at the start of communication prior to receiving attention-degree information, as shown in Fig. 8.

More specifically, the seating-order determiner 71 generates the attention-destination table shown in Fig. 6 and performs initialization in the process of step S31 shown in Fig. 8.

In the initialization, the seating-order determiner 71 sets the "individual number" column to the numbers (H1 to Hn in a case shown in Fig. 6) corresponding to conference participants attending a conference held with the teleconference system in the attention-destination table shown in Fig. 6; sets the "attention-destination number" column all to a number A0 which indicates that the conference participants HM1 to HMn who use the teleconference devices TCD1 to TCDn pay attention to none of them; and sets the "whether registration has been made to group table" column to all "x" which indicates that registration has not yet been made to any group.

The seating-order determiner 71 generates a group table and performs initialization in the process of step S32 as shown in Fig. 7.

In the initialization, the seating-order determiner 71 sets the "group number" column to G1 to Gn which indicate that each of the teleconference devices TCD1 to TCDn forms one group, in the group table shown in Fig. 7; sets the "number of members" column to all 0, which indicates that none attends any group; and sets the "member" column to all null, which indicates that any group has no member.

When the seating-order determiner 71 receives attention-degree information, it starts a process to be performed when attention-degree information is generated, as shown in Fig. 9.

In Fig. 9, when the seating-order determiner 71 receives attention-degree information, it sets the attention-destination table according to the attention-degree information in the process of step S41 as shown in Fig. 10.

Actually, the seating-order determiner 71 specifies the "attention-destination number" column such that, when information (Hi:Aj) is received, which indicates that the conference participant HM<sub>i</sub> indicated by Hi pays attention to the conference participant HM<sub>j</sub> corresponding to Aj, the "attention-destination number" cell corresponding to an individual number of Hi is set to Aj.

The "whether registration has been made to group table" column is all initialized to "x."

In a case shown in Fig. 10, the "attention-destination number" cell corresponding to an "individual number" of H1 is set to A3 corresponding to the conference participant HM3 as the attention destination of the conference participant HM1 indicated by an "individual number" of H1; the "attention-destination number" cell corresponding to an "individual number" of H2 is set to A0, which indicates that none attracts attention, as the attention destination of the conference participant HM2 indicated by an "individual number" of H2; the "attention-destination number" cell corresponding to an "individual number" of H3 is set to A5 corresponding to the conference participant HM3 as the attention destination of the conference participant HM3 indicated by an "individual number" of H3; and the "attention-destination number" cell corresponding to an "individual number" of H4 is set to A2 corresponding to the conference participant HM2 as the attention destination of the conference participant HM4 indicated by an "individual number" of H4. A description for conference participants HM5 to HMn will be omitted. The "attention-destination numbers" column is specified for HMi in this way.

The seating-order determiner 71 sets the "numbers of members" column all to 0 and the "member" column all to null as shown in Fig. 7 in the group table in the process of step S42.